

News Release

U of M, Crookston Chief Pilot Mike Vivion Renews Master Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) Accreditation

By Itollefs on Thursday, June 21, 2012

Michael T Vivion (at left), a 6-time Master and Society of Aviation and Flight Education (SAFE) member, recently renewed his Master CFI accreditation. Vivion is a check airman and teaching specialist in the University of Minnesota, Crookston's aviation program. The 1998 Nat'l Aviation Safety Counselor of the Year, he also serves as a FAASTeam representative in the FAA's Minneapolis FSDO area.



Master Instructors LLC takes great pride in announcing a significant aviation accomplishment on the part of Michael T Vivion, a check airman in the University of Minnesota's aviation program and resident of Crookston, Minnesota. Recently, Vivion's accreditation as a Master Certificated Flight Instructor (CFI) was renewed by Master Instructors LLC, the international accrediting authority for Master Instructor designations as well as the FAA-approved Master Instructor Program. He first earned this national professional accreditation in 2002, has held it continuously since then, and is one of only 24 worldwide to earn the credential six times.

To help put these achievements in their proper perspective, there are approximately 96,000 CFIs in the United States. Fewer than 700 of those aviation educators have achieved that distinction thus far. The last 17 national Flight Instructors of the Year were Master CFIs (see www.GeneralAviationAwards.org/) while Vivion is one of only eight Minnesota teachers of flight to earn this prestigious "Master" title.

In the words of former FAA Administrator Marion Blakey, "The Master Instructor accreditation singles out the best that the right seat has to offer."

The Master Instructor designation is a national accreditation recognized by the FAA. Candidates must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth, and service to the aviation community, and must pass a rigorous evaluation by a peer Board of Review. The process parallels the continuing education regimen used by other professionals to enhance their knowledge base while increasing their professionalism.

Designees are recognized as outstanding aviation educators for not only their excellence in teaching, but for their engagement in the continuous process of learning -- both their own, and their students'. The designation must be renewed biennially and significantly surpasses the FAA requirements for renewal of the candidate's flight instructor certificate.

Questions regarding the Master Instructor Program may be directed to 303-485-8136 or MasterInstrs@aol.com. For more information about the Master Instructor Program and to locate other Masters, please visit the "Find a Master Instructor" section of www.MasterInstructors.org. To learn more about the Society of Aviation and Flight Educators (SAFE), visit <http://SafePilots.org>. The International Aerobatic Club (IAC) can be reached through their website at <http://IAC.org>.

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 26 bachelor's degree programs, 18 minors, and 36 concentrations, including 10 online degrees, in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,600 undergraduates from 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

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